RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 31st May, 1995/ *10th Jyaisha*, 1917 (*Saka*)

The House met at eleven of the clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Expenditure on Indian missions abroad

*781. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:†

SHRI J. S. RAJU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total expenditure, per annum, incurred on various Indian missions abroad;

(b) which mission tops in expenditure and which mission is the lowest in expenditure;

(c) what are the reasons for disparity in the expenditure; and

(d) what percentage this expenditure occupies in the over-all budget expenditure of the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The total expenditure on Indian Missions/Posts abroad in 1993-94 was Rs. 330.73 crores. The break-up in respect of individual Missions/Posts is given at Statement. Final figures for 1994-95 are under compilation.

(b) The position, based on 1993-94 expenditure figures, was as follows:

Highest Expenditure	Lowest Expenditure
Embassy of India, Washington	Liaison Office of the Embassy of India in Bhutan, Phuntsholing

(c) The disparity in the expenditure of various Missions/Posts is on account of the size of these Missions, the sale of their activities, and the cost of living in the country concerned

(d) Expenditure on Indian Missions/Posts abroad in 1993-94 constituted 38.3 per cent of the total expenditure of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Statement

(Rs. in thousands)

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON VARIOUS MISSIONS/POSTS ABROAD DURING 1993-94

1	E.I., ABIDJAN	17301	
2	E.I., ABUDHABI	34171	EI—Embassy of India
3	H.C.I., ACCRA	16904	

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Tindivanam G. Venkatraman.

1	2	3	4
4	E.I., ADDIS ABABA	10692	HCI—High Commission of India
5	E.I., ADEN	3085	CGI—Consulate General of India
6	E.I., ALMATY	20951	
7	E.I., ALGIERS	13973	AHCI—Assistant High Commission of India
8	E.I., AMMAN	7735	
9	E.I., ANKARA	15988	
10	E.I., ANTANANARIVO	7140	PMI—Permanent Mission of India
11	E.I., ATHENS	15308	CI—Commission of Indiia OR Consulate of India
12	E.I., BAGHDAD	19908	
13	E.I., BAHRAIN	32261	
14	E.I., BANGKOK	46728	
15	E.I., BEIJING	45999	LO—Liaison Office
16	E.I., BEIRUT	16338	
17	E.I., BELGRADE	20418	
18	E.I., BERLIN OFFICE	22650	
19	E.I., BERNE	31858	
20	A.H.C.I., BIRMINGHAM . . .	14262	
21	E.I., BOGOTA	0	
22	E.I., BONN	85895	
23	E.I., BRASILIA	28356	
24	E.I., BRUSSELS	42388	
25	H.C.I., BURNEI	16950	
26	E.I., BUCHAREST	15203	
27	E.I., BUDAPEST	15771	
28	E.I., BUENOS AIRES	22863	
29	E.I., CAIRO	37009	
30	H.C.I., CANBERRA	20200	
31	H.C.I., CARACAS	10850	
32	C.I., CHIANGMAI	4789	

1	2	3
33	C.G.I., CHICAGO	32991
34	A.H.C.I., CHITTAGONG . . .	6151
35	H.C.I., COLOMBO	47715
36	E.I., COPENHAGEN	14333
37	E.I., DAKAR	14320
38	E.I., DAMASCUS	22802
39	H.C.I., DAR-ES-SALAM	15100
40	H.C.I., DHAKA	51006
41	E.I., DOHA	23782
42	C.G.I., DUBAI	39896
43	E.I., DUBLIN	13048
44	C.G.I., FRANKFURT	19644
45	H.C.I., GABORONE.	16221
46	P.M.I., GENEVA	73690
47	H.C.I., GEORGETOWN	13398
48	E.I., HAGUE (THE)	29451
49	C.G.I., HAMBURG	3220
50	E.I., HANOI	20040
51	H.C.I., HARARE	9715
52	E.I., HAVANA	[illegible]
53	E.I., HELSINKI	14447
54	C.G.I., HO-CHI-MINH CITY . .	8057
55	C.I., HONGKONG	37422
56	C.I., ISTANBUL	4480
57	E.I., ISLAMABAD	53734
58	E.I., JAKARTA	27183
59	C.G.I., JEDDAH	62206
60	C.G.I., JOHANNESBURG . . .	17283
61	E.I., KABUL	17024
62	H.C.I., KAMPALA	[illegible]

(Rs. in thousands)

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON VARIOUS MISSION/POSTS ABROAD DURING 1993-94

1	2	3
63	A.H.C.I., KANDY	5121
64	C.G.I., KARACHI	11433
65	E.I., KATHMANDU	24409
66	E.I., KHARTOUM	10467
67	E.I., KIEV	22904
68	H.C.I., KINGSTON	7718
69	C.G.I., KOBE	36445
70	H.C.I., KUALA LUMPUR	25774
71	E.I., KUWAIT	3287
72	H.C.I., LAGOS	14799
73	H.C.I., LILONGWE	6092
74	E.I., LIMA	11669
75	E.I., LISBON	12365
76	H.C.I., LONDON (CD+ISI)	150463
77	E.I., LUANDA	9930
78	E.I., LUSAKA	11605
79	E.I., MADRID	25230
80	H.C.I., MAHE	9640
81	H.C.I., MALE	15517
82	H.C.I., MALTA	5293
83	E.I., MANILA	10447
84	E.I., MAPUTO	12093
85	C.G.I., MEDAN	2474
86	E.I., MEXICO CITY	20805
87	C.G.I., MILAN	17919
88	E.I., MINSK	8876
89	C.I., MOMBASA	2782
90	E.I., MOSCOW	44185

1	2	3
91	E.I., MUSCAT	22516
92	H.C.I., NAIROBI	14336
93	C.G.I., NEW YORK	44184
94	P.M.I., NEW YORK	84642
95	H.C.T., NICOSIA	8479
96	C.G.I., ODESSA	3938
97	E.I., OSLO	13213
98	H.C.I., OTTAWA	36104
99	E.I., PANAMA	18275
100	E.I., PARAMARTBO	11290
101	E.I., PARIS	90561
102	E.I., PHNOM PENH	10502
103	L.O., PHUNTSHOLING	1221
104	H.C.I., PORT LOUIS	18338
105	H.C.I., PORT OF SPAIN	23109
106	C.G.I., PORT SAID	3184
107	E.I., PRAGUE	24468
108	E.I., PYONG YANG	7662
109	E.I., RABAT	12760
110	A.H.C.I., RAJSHAHI	2928
111	E.I., YANGON	19984
112	E.I., RIYADH	61872
113	E.I., ROME	47729
114	C.G.I., SAINT DENIS	8006
115	C.G.I., SAINT PETERSBURG	10964
116	C.G.I., SAN FRANCISCO	31685
117	E.I., SANA'A	9224
118	E.I., SANTIAGO	9494
119	E.I., SEOUL	46576
120	C.G.I., SHANGHAI	14875

(Rs. in thousands)

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON VARIOUS MISSIONS/POSTS ABROAD DURING 1993-94

121	C.I., SHIRAZ	2621
122	H.C.I., SINGAPORE	25146
123	E.I., SOFIA	12129
124	E.I., STOCKHOLM	23041
125	C.G.I., SYDNEY	15367
126	E.I., TASHKENT	11866
127	E.I., TEHRAN	31216
	E.I., TEL AVIV	44318
129	E.I., THIMPHU	11937
130	E.I., TOKYO	96188
131	C.G.I., TORONTO	20677
132	E.I., TRIPOLI	24754
133	E.I., TUNIS	4579
134	E.I., ULAN BATOR	6879
135	C.G.I., VANCOUVER	16243
136	E.I., VIENNA	38756
137	E.I., VIENTIANE	5536
138	C.G.I., VLADIVOSTOK	7666
139	E.I., WARSAW	18735
140	E.I., WASHINGTON	155080
141	H.C.I., WELLINGTON	15414
142	H.C.I., WINDHOEK	10736
143	C.I., ZAHIDAN	2398
144	C.G.I., ZANZIBAR	2533
		3307349

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Mr. Chairman Sir, though the question is specific, the answer to the question is vague. The total expenditure has been given. The highest expenditure as well as the lowest expenditure has also been given. In part (c) of the answer, it has been said that the disparity is on account of the size of Missions. I would like to know from the Minister as to why there should be difference in the size of Missions. After all, the Missions will have the same posts. There must be some uniformity. Why should there be this disparity? A Mission has 130 or 100 persons. Why should there be disparity? I am not on the question of expenditure at all. But why shouldn't there be uniformity?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You mean equal number of people?

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Yes, equal number of people. Therefore, why should there be for Japan...

MR. CHAIRMAN: International socialism!

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: As the Chairman pleases. I do not say anything against that, Sir. So, this is a vague answer. I would have put some other vital questions also. But I want to know regarding this disparity in the number of persons. Take America. You have mentioned so many countries. Why should there be such a thing? I would have put another question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is your first supplementary.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the hon. Member should appreciate that the activities of the Missions in different countries are different. Therefore, there cannot be some sort of uniformity which the hon. Member desires to have. Of course, from the view point of universal socialism or equality, it might be a laudable approach, but it is not practicable. In answer to the second point, I would like to submit most respectfully that this type of information is provided in the detailed Expenditure Budget and the Grants of the Ministry concerned. So, this information is available to the Members otherwise also, apart from the Questions in this House.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Sir, he has given the figures and all that. Is it not a fact that the C.A.G. has indicated the Minister of External Affairs on the construction of a building for India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations and also for the Consulate-General of India in New York? The C.A.G. has said that the project is not viable financially. Despite this, the Government went ahead with the project resulting in the outgo of substantial foreign exchange at a time when the country is reeling under severe foreign exchange crunch. Is it not a fact? When you are concentrating upon many other things regarding saving of the foreign exchange, despite the fact that it is not financially viable and is also to the detriment of the financial condition of the country, why have you taken up this project? The C.A.G. has indicated the Ministry. What is your answer to that?

SHRI PRANAB MUJHERJEE: Sir, so far as the CAG's comment on a particular Mission is concerned, the hon. Member would appreciate that I require a separate notice for that.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to indicate whether it is a fact that despite substantial expenditure being incurred on the Indian Mission abroad, these Missions have not been able to

effectively counteract the propaganda on Kashmir, particularly the propaganda that is based on the so-called human rights organisations' report—the human rights organisations functioning in India. I would like to know whether the Government, the Ministry of External Affairs, has ever thought of recommending to the Ministry of Home affairs that these human rights organisations should be registered and about those which are not registered, the Foreign Missions abroad could easily say that these are spurious organisations and no weight can be given to them and whatever exposure of these *human rights reports has been done* in India, in the courts and so on, it is never explained by our Missions abroad that these are spurious bodies, they are doing either wrong propaganda or sending concocted reports or the courts have held that these reports are all fabricated and concocted. I have personally seen that these reports are being circulated abroad and the Indian Missions there have not been able to counteract that propaganda.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the question of effectively counteracting the propaganda launched by Pakistan is concerned, I would like to submit for the consideration of the hon. Members of the House, through you, Sir, that, after all, the proof of a pudding is in the eating. If you would not have been able to counteract it, then Pakistan would not have failed to get its resolution endorsed, not once but twice, in the Human Rghts Commission. They failed in 1994 and 1995. Even in 1994, in the special session of the U.N. General Assembly, they could not get their resolution endorsed. But, at the same time I do feel that there is need for augmenting our activities and to be more effective because I cannot say that everywhere our performance is excellent. There is always scope for improvement and we will try to improve it. The specific suggestions which the hon. Member considers necessary will be looked into.

In regard to the registration of the human rights organisations with the Ministry of Home Affairs to determine their standing, I think it is a good suggestion which can be passed on to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Only on one point I would like to agree with the hon. Member. I would not like to mention the name of the organisation for obvious reasons as the hon. Member is aware of how a distorted picture was projected by showing a photograph of a Tamil Nadu woman as a refugee from Kashmir and when this bluff was called it created a good impression in our favour and against the organisaton which published it. Sometimes it happens.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, सरकार से एक अनुरोध करूंगा खर्च बढ़ाने के लिए एक्सपेंडीचर बढ़ाने के लिए कि जो महत्वपूर्ण घटना हमारे देश में घटती हैं उसकी विदेशों में क्या प्रतिक्रिया होती है, जैसे अभी चरार-ए-शरीफ की घटना है, या पेटण्ट बिल हम लोगों ने नहीं किया इस पर डिफरेण्ट कण्ट्री की क्या रिएक्शन होती है उस बारे में टाइम टू टाइम मेम्बर्स आफ द पार्लियामेंट को एक रिज्यूम में या ब्रीफ बनाकर देने का खर्च सरकार उठाएगी ? ऐसा हम लोगों के लिए करेगी ? So that we are well-informed.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, basically, this is a suggestion for action.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: The question is whether you are going to increase your expenditure.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: You have suggested something but I cannot immediately respond to that.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I have said that we have agreed to that expenditure... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mishraji, it is a good suggestion. .

श्री एस. एस. अहलूवालिया : सभापति महोदय, विदेश के किसी भी इंटरनेशनल फोरम पर जब कोई कांफ्रेंस होती है, हमारे राजदूत उसमें हिस्सा लेने जाते हैं और हमारे देश के मंत्री भी हिस्सा लेने जाते हैं वहां देखने में आया है कि विभिन भाषाओं में अपने विचार रखे जाते हैं क्योंकि उस देश की भाषा का प्रचार किया जाता है । इस खर्चे के बीच हिन्दी के प्रचार के लिए विदेशों में इंटरनेशनल फोरम पर हिन्दी के प्रचार के लिए कितना खर्चा किया जाता है ? क्योंकि ऐसा देखने में आया है और अभी मैं जिनेवा गया था और मैंने कहा कि मैं हिन्दी में भाषण देना चाहता हूं तो उन्होंने कहा कि बहुत ज्यादा खर्चा पड़ता है । तो क्यों नहीं हमारे इंटरप्रेटर्स वहां पर मिशन में डियूट किए जाते हैं ताकि हिन्दी का प्रचार किया जा सके और हिन्दी में भाषण देकर सारे विश्व में हिन्दी के अस्तित्व को बताया जा सके उसके लिए अभी कितना खर्चा किया जाता है और अगर इंटरप्रेटर्स रखे जाएं सब जगह ताकि उसका प्रचार हो सके तो कितना खर्चा बढ़ जाएगा ।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : यू.एन.ओ में ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, in this matter I think at one point of time the Official Language Committee also looked into it and (*Interruptions*)

कई माननीय सदस्य : हिन्दी में जवाब दीजिए ।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am afraid my Hindi will not be correct but I love to speak in Hindi. I can do it in private conversation but not on the floor of the House.

श्री नरेश यादव : सभापति महोदय, बंगला में जवाब दिया जाए हम लोगों को समझ में आ जाएगा ।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So, I would like to submit that at some point of time this suggestion was made and we can try to improve, but, Sir, it is difficult for me to just quantify the expenditure of what would he required. As hon. Members would appreciate, he has attended a number of international conferences and he know that that in most of the conferences translations take place in selected languages and not in all languages all over the world. But somewhere it could have been done but I shall look into this aspect and see to what extent we can do, but it would be very difficult for me to give any assessment about the quantum of expenditure which will be incurred because this requires a detailed examination.

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Sir, I am glad the Minister has come forward with a lot of information but as far as quantum of expenditure is concerned, the Government is spending about 40 per cent of the External Affairs Ministry on these missions. But in spite of all the expendiure incurred by the Government, how is the Government assessing the quantum of work of each mission and also the quality of the work undertaken by them and also the results that are obtained by the activities of the missions? There should be some mechanism in the Ministry to assess the work of these missions and from time to time to give them necessary directions for the flufilment of their duties, tasks. What are the effors made in this direction by the Ministry and what are the results?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, in regard to the assessment of the

work, Parliament is there. They also make some review and particularly, after the establishment of the institution of Parliamentary Standing Committee, they also look into it, the Consultative Committee also discusses the functioning of the missions. The basic objective is to propagate the policies of the nation and to project the image of the country and also to express our views of various issues with which we are concerned. That is the basic job of the missions and we are doing that.

श्री ओ० पी० कोहली : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि विदेशों में भारतीय मिशनों पर जो खर्चा किया जा रहा है, उसमें किफायत या इकॉनमी करने की कोई गुंजाइश है या नहीं ? इसका सरकार ने कोई अंदाजा लगाया है और यदि लगाया है तो इस दिशा में क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं ताकि उस खर्चे में कटौती की जा सके ?

मेरे सवाल का (बी) पार्ट है कि क्या विदेशों में भारतीय मिशन अपनी कार्य शैली में अपनी जीवनशैली में अपनी आचरण शैली में भारतीय जीवन की सदगी का आदर्श और नमूना प्रस्तुत करते हैं या नहीं।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the reduction of expenditure is concerned, it is a continuing exercise, not only in our missions abroad, but everywhere, the Government is trying to reduce the expenditure as far as possible, without compromising the efficiency and the effectiveness of the institution.

So far as the question of projecting the Indian way of life is concerned—simplicity, etc.—as I mentioned, we normally keep our expenditure, as far as possible, at the minimum level. Perhaps, the message of simplicity is being conveyed through this.

*782. The questioners (Shri Ish Dutt Yadav and Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal) were absent. For answer vide Col... infra.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, you should pull up the Opposition Members who remain absent.

Delegation of Muslim countries in connection with charar-e-sharif

*783. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:†

SHRI G. G. SWELL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to send or sponsor non-official delegations to Muslim and other countries to convey to them that Pakistan Government have played a crucial role in the destruction of Charar-e-Sharif; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have apprised foreign countries, including member countries of the OIC at the political, official and diplomatic levels of the destruction of the shrine and mosque at Charar-e-Sharif by a group of mercenaries at the behest of Pakistan.

Government are not considering at present deputing any non-official delegations to foreign countries specifically in this context.

श्री चिमनभाई मेहता : सर, यह जवाब पहने से ऐसा लगता है कि बहुत टैक्निकल फार्म में जवाब दिया जाता है। आपने नोट्स भेजीं डिप्लोमेटिक मिशन्स के जरिए कहा कि चरार-ए-शरीफ का कैसे ध्वंस किया गया लेकिन वहां से जो

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chimanbhai Mehta.